



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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## **U.S. Deputy Secretary of State accuses government of Sudan of intimidating aid workers**

- U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte in remarks in Washington yesterday accused Sudan's government of organizing a campaign of intimidation against aid workers operating in Darfur: "The denial of visas, the harassment of aid workers, and other measures have created the impression that the government of Sudan is engaged in a deliberate campaign of intimidation," he said.

Negroponte warned that "Time is running out for the Sudanese government to accept a hybrid force in Darfur or face new sanctions." Negroponte, who returned from Sudan last week (sic), said President Al-Bashir had "weeks" to agree to a UN/AU hybrid force in Darfur or have new U.S. sanctions imposed. The American official commented on his meeting with President Bashir by saying that "It was not encouraging" and that he was pessimistic that the Sudanese leader would follow through and implement promises to allow U.N. peacekeepers to supplement AU troops in Darfur: "I came away from that meeting with a healthy, strong sense of skepticism as to whether they might fulfill their commitments." In addition to rapidly accepting the hybrid force, Sudan's government must also disarm Arab militias, known as the Janjaweed, held responsible for much of the violence in Darfur. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Ayaam, et al*)

## **Inauguration of Darfur Regional Transitional Authority**

- Senior Assistant to the President Minni Minawi and Presidential Adviser Magzoub Al-Khalifa inaugurated yesterday the Darfur Regional Transitional Authority (DRTA) premises. Minawi considered the formation of DRTA as a shift to practicing political, economical, security, and

human authority in Darfur. Meanwhile, Al-Khalifa offered a two-month halt in military operations in strife-torn Darfur to allow for rebel groups to join the peace process: "The government forces will not conduct military operations in Darfur for the next two months." The inauguration ceremony was attended by Acting Head of the African Union Mission in Sudan Monique Mikaruliza and the American Charge d' Affairs to Sudan. (*Sudan Vision, Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Ayaam et al*)

## **Deputy Speaker of Parliament meets with American attorneys responsible for defending Sudanese detainees**

- Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Atim Garang praised the efforts made by the American attorneys who are defending Sudanese detainees at Guantanamo. During his meeting with the American lawyers at his office yesterday, Garang affirmed the Parliament's support of their efforts in this regard and urged international parliaments to continue calls for the release of the detainees. Atim further added that Parliament would work through all parliaments' forums in coordination with the civil society organizations to escalate the campaign against the detention of Sudanese nationals and others. (*SUNA*)

## **Quote of the Day**

**"Peace implementation takes great effort." – Senior Assistant to the President Mini Minawi**

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